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[001] ELECTRODYNAMIC DRIVE SYSTEM

[002] FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[003] The invention concerns an electrodynamic drive train system for a vehicle.

[004] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[005] Drive systems for vehicles customarily comprise an internal combustion motor as the driving machine, a subsequent manual or automatic transmission and a friction clutch placed between the internal combustion motor and the transmission or again, comprise a hydrodynamic converter placed between the internal combustion motor and the transmission. The friction clutch or the converter are burdened with losses and present energy losses in the drive train.

[006] The invention has the purpose of minimizing the losses which occur between the driving machine and the ~~manual~~ transmission.

[007]

[008] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[009] In accord with the invention, and with an electrodynamic drive system for a vehicle, it is proposed to place a planetary gear drive between a driving machine and a manual or automatic transmission, which said planetary gear drive encompasses the three elements, sun gear, internal gear, and planetary carrier. Of these three elements, a first element is connected to the ~~manual~~ transmission, a second element is bound to the driving machine, and a third element is coupled with at least one electric motor. An advantageous construction possesses a control, which can regulate the at least one electric motor in the 4-quadrant operation. A further embodiment possesses a clutch between two elements of the planetary drive for the lockup or bypass of the planetary drive, which in one type of assembly includes a dog clutch. In an additional arrangement, an overtake-free wheeling device is placed between the driving machine and the electrodynamic drive system. In yet another embodiment, several electric motors in combination act upon one of the elements of the planetary drive. In an

advantageous embodiment, a lock-up torque converter is provided for the formation of torque support during the startup procedure. This can be carried out by the simultaneous engagement of two shifting stages in the manual transmission, by means of a parking lock, by a braking apparatus of the vehicle and a simultaneously engaged gear stage on an input shaft of the manual transmission. In one embodiment form, on one shaft of the planetary drive a brake retard is placed.

[010] By means of the invented drive system, a more environmentally friendly functioning of the vehicle and a lowering of the operating life costs are attained. With the present invention, a drive system is presented, which avoids any friction based starting element. What otherwise would be power lost in slippage, can be now used as a additional power for the electrical on-board system. At the same time, use of the electric motor permits an increase of torque and the motor can be employed as a booster element in the concept of additional drive, during an accelerating period. After the startup phase, the electric motor can be converted to a generator for on-board current supply. The electric motor, in addition, can be employed as a source of power for electrically driven, ancillary power take offs. The use of the electric motor as a starter for the internal combustion motor and as a vehicle drive without the exhaust of environmentally unfriendly substances is a growing technology. At the same time, with corresponding control, as well as in connection with an additional retarding braking system, such as, for example, a hydrodynamic retarder, a damping of interruptions in the drive train can be achieved.

[011] The planetary gear set proposed for the invented drive system can be inserted in front of an optional manual transmission. The following are connected to members of the planetary gear drive:

- the input shaft from the internal combustion motor, if required, with overrunning clutch for start-stop operation or for the Zero-Emission-Vehicle-operation, that is, powering the vehicle by the electric motor, when the internal combustion motor is not turning,

- at least one electric motor, which can operate both as a drive motor as well as a generator,
- if required, a shifting clutch for bypassing the electric motor, when it need not be required as a motor,
- as well as the output shaft to the ~~manual~~-transmission and
- in some cases, a retarder.

[012] In comparison to conventional drive systems, the following can be eliminated:

- a dry clutch with disengagement means,
- a starter,
- a generator (light machine),
- in some cases, mechanical auxiliary power take-offs,
- partially, one or more mechanical gear stages, because the electrodynamic drive system introduces a corresponding increase of torque.\

[013] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[014] The invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[015] Fig. 1 is a sketch of the principles of the invention;

[016] Fig. 2 is an embodiment in accord with Fig. 1 with brake retard system;

[017] Fig. 3 is an embodiment in accord with Fig. 1 with overrunning clutch;

[018] Fig. 4 is an embodiment in accord with Fig. 3 with a retarding brake system;
and

[019] Fig. 5 is an embodiment in accord with Fig. 4 with additional overrunning clutch.

[020] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[021] Fig. 1 presents a sketch of the principles of the invented drive system 2. At the output of a drive source 4, a flywheel 6 is installed, which, by means of a shaft 8, is connected with the internal gear 10 of the planetary gear drive 12. The planetary drive 12 is placed in a part 18 of the housing 14 of a manual or

automatic transmission- 16. In an additional part 20 of the housing 14, an electric motor 22 is provided. Within yet another part 24 of the housing 14 are located the known elements of a ~~manual~~ transmission 16, in regard to which, no further discussion is necessary. The parts 18, 20, and 24 can also be separate housing elements combined into an entire housing 14. The shaft 8 is in the part 20 of the housing- 14 and rotatably secured in bearings 26. The input shaft 28 of the ~~manual~~ transmission 16 is likewise rotatably secured in bearings 30 and is affixed to and turns with the planet gear carrier 32 of the planetary gear drive 12. On the bearing bolts 34 of the planetary carrier 32, the planetary gears 36 are rotatably secured. The- planetary carrier 32 possesses further a clutch toothing 38 of a torque converter 40, with which the planetary gear carrier 32 is rotatably affixed with a shaft housing 14, also possesses a clutch toothing 46, which, by means of a shifting element 48, can be brought into a rotatingly meshes with coupling toothing- 38. Thereby, a bypassing of the planetary gears 12 is achieved. The planetary gears 36 mesh in their toothing both with the internal gear 10 as well as the sun gear 50, which is rotatably affixed with a shaft 42. The shaft 42 possesses in part 18 of the housing 14, the rotor 52 of the electric motor 22. The stator 54 of the electric motor 22 is seated in the housing 14.

[022] Fig. 2 shows the arrangement in accord with Fig. 1, but with an additional brake retard device 56 in the form of a eddy current brake. Corresponding components are designated by the same reference numbers as in Fig. 1.

[023] The rotating part of the eddy current brake 56 are placed on the shaft 42 and the non-rotating elements are secured in part 20 of the housing 14. The brake retard system serves for a abrasion-free braking of the vehicle, especially where long downward inclines are concerned.

[024] Fig. 3 shows again the arrangement of Fig. 1, but with an additional overrunning clutch 58. Corresponding components as in Fig. 1 are designated with the same reference numbers. The rotating elements of the overrunning clutch 58 are placed on the shaft 8 and the non-rotating elements secured in part 20 of the housing 14. The overrunning clutch 58 serves for the drive of the vehicle

powered by the electric motor 22, without the necessity that the drive source rotates.

[025] Fig. 4 presents the arrangement of Fig. 3, with an additional eddy current brake retard clutch 56. Corresponding components in Fig. 4 are designated by the same reference numbers as found in Fig. 3.

[026] In Fig. 5 is shown an assembly with an overrunning clutch 59 on the input shaft 28 of the manual transmission 16. This overrunning clutch 59 supports the input shaft 28 against a reverse rotation, if, in vehicle stillstand, the drive source 4 is started from the electric motor 22.

Reference number and items

2	Drive system
4	Drive source
6	Fly-wheel
8	Shaft
10	Internal gear
12	Planetary gear drive
14	Housing
16	Manual <u>or automatic</u> transmission
18	Housing Part
20	Housing Part
22	Electric motor
24	Housing Part
26	Bearings
28	Input shaft
30	Bearings
32	Planetary carrier
34	Bolts for bearing
36	Planet gear
38	Toothing on gear
40	Bypass clutch
42	Shaft
44	Bearings
46	Clutch toothing
48	Shifting element
50	Sun Gear
52	Rotor
54	Stator
56	Brake retard
58	Overrunning clutch
59	Overrunning clutch